What I know:
In her e-newsletter *From the Chancellor’s Desk* on August 6, 2021, Chancellor Christian shared the district-wide survey results about vaccine status. Below, you can see comparative information for Bakersfield College and KCCD, overall. As you can see, a higher percentage of BC faculty and staff are vaccinated, and there is somewhat higher support to mandate vaccinations for the entire campus community:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response for all faculty and staff</th>
<th>BC</th>
<th>KCCD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fully or partially vaccinated</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support Vaccination Requirement for Staff &amp; Students</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We are at a critical juncture in our journey to resume face-to-face education and serve students at our beautiful campuses. More than 50 percent of our classes are scheduled on campus, with the rest being online. Our managers and staff have returned to work from campus and we are slowly seeing faculty and students return from their summer vacations.

I wanted to highlight some facts about the shifting public health landscape around COVID-19 to help you understand why we all need to be vigilant in following safety protocols:

- In Kern County, COVID-19 transmission is at its highest levels since February. Sam Morgen of the Bakersfield Californian reported that an average of 22.3 new cases per 100,000 Kern County residents are confirmed every day. On February 10, Kern County was contracting 23.7 new cases per 100,000. This illustrates that the current surge is close to the level it was when access to the vaccine was still limited.

- Kern County Public Health has begun reporting cases daily:
  - 903 new cases of COVID-19 on August 9th;
  - 210 new cases of COVID-19 on August 10th; and
  - 355 new cases of COVID-19 on August 11th.

- Last week, several local hospitals have announced that they will be postponing non-emergency medical procedures to make sure that they have the space and resources to deal with the pandemic, according to the Bakersfield Californian.

- The Delta strain is more than twice as infectious as the original COVID-19 virus, according to a study reported by NPR.
• The Delta variant of COVID-19 has become the predominant strain of the virus over the past few months, accounting for 93.4 percent of new in July, according to the Washington Post.

• With the vaccine available to all individuals 12 and older, hospitalizations and death from COVID-19 are entirely preventable. The latest report from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention concludes that more than 99 percent of people who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 have not had a breakthrough case resulting in hospitalization or death, according to CNN.

In response to similar dramatically higher COVID-19 case rates in other counties in California and across the country, at least 23 community college districts in California and more than 700 institutes of higher education nationwide are mandating vaccinations.

On August 11, the California Department of Public Health announced that it is mandating vaccinations for all K-12 school staff. With this order, California becomes the first state in the US to mandate vaccinations for K-12 employees. California's two largest teachers unions said they fully support the new policy. The California Teachers Association and the California Federation of Teachers both cited state and national polling that indicates nearly 90% of educators have been vaccinated but said the rising spread of the delta variant, particularly among children, makes the new policy necessary. The president of the nation's second-largest teachers union, the American Federation of Teachers, Randi Weingarten, said "the circumstances have changed." Full article here.

Vaccines in higher education have been endorsed by the White House's Chief Medical Advisor Dr. Anthony Fauci. Dr Fauci predicts that more vaccine mandates will be instituted across the public and private sector once the vaccine receives full FDA approval, which he also predicts will be announced before the end of September.

All state and federal employees, as well as medical workers have already been required to provide proof of vaccination or test regularly for COVID-19.

BC’s COVID Response Team
Fall 2021 team:
• Jennifer Johnson, Interim Student Health and Wellness Center Director
• Dr. Nicky Damania, Dean of Students
• Rich McCrow, Dean of Instruction
• Marcos Rodriguez, Director of Maintenance and Facilities
• Mike Medeiros, Athletic Trainer
• Chris Glaser, DAIII, College Safety
• Kathleen Rush, Math Professor.

If you have comments or recommendations, please email to covid19@bakersfieldcollege.edu.

Fall 2021 Protocols
The BC COVID Response Team has updated our COVID-19 protocols for the Fall semester based on California Department of Public Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Cal-OSHA guidelines and other related medical guidance adopted by the College.
We are committed to maintaining the health and safety of our campus community and will provide updates as they become available. All individuals must follow the public health guidelines below to protect themselves and others. Note:

- Masks are **required** to be worn by students, employees, and visitors indoors on our campus properties until further notice. Face coverings will be available upon request.
- Stay home if you do not feel well and contact your medical provider if you develop symptoms such as fever, sore throat, cough, nasal congestion, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, chills, muscle pain, or loss of taste or smell.
- Social/physical distancing requirements have been removed with the exception of large gatherings.
- All students and employees will use the **KCCD Campus Pass app** before coming to campus and entering classrooms or offices.

The BC COVID Response Team will be hosting two **Flex Workshops** on 8/18 at 9:30am and 4:30pm for faculty and staff. I encourage you to attend those sessions.

**KCCD Campus Pass App Overview**

The **KCCD Campus Pass App** is available for Android and IOS devices, and it’s easy to use. There is also a web-based version on the BC COVID website when a smart phone is not available or if you choose not to download the app to your phone. All students and employees will use the KCCD Campus Pass App before coming to campus and entering classrooms or offices. Using the app involves two steps.

- **Step 1**: Students and employees will complete the Daily Health Checker form on the KCCD Campus Pass app before coming to campus. Individuals will receive one of three campus passes:
  1. **Blue health pass** is cleared to come to campus and have shown the BC COVID Response Team that they are fully vaccinated.
  2. **Green health pass** is cleared to come to campus.
  3. **Red health pass** must stay home and contact their instructor or supervisor. Red passes will trigger a call from the BC COVID Response Team. The Team works with this person to clear them for return to campus or determine next steps.

- **Step 2**: On entering a classroom or office, individuals will be asked to show their health pass to the instructor or office personnel via the KCCD Campus Pass App and scan the QR Code in the room to assist the BC COVID Response Team if contact tracing is necessary. Features of the app include a self-reporting form and push notification to remind you to complete the Daily Health Checker form before coming onto campus. As a reminder, the KCCD Campus Pass App is used as a tool to assist the BC COVID Response Team in the event of an exposure and does not track your location. Individuals who test positive for COVID-19, should complete a self-reporting form to inform the BC COVID Response Team of their test results. This may trigger a communication from the BC Response Team. Review the [Campus Pass App webpage](#) for more information.

**Concluding thoughts:**

To date, our COVID-19 protocols have protected our community well and if we all continue to do our part, we can beat this together because **WE ARE BC!**
Thank you all for making Bakersfield a better place, one student at a time. That’s all I have for now. I look forward to communicating with you soon.

-Zav

Zav Dadabhoy, Ph.D.
President, Interim
Bakersfield College